

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

As an initial matter, Applicants wish to notify the Patent Office that it has come to our attention that incorrect paragraph numbers ([0062.5], [00104], and [00105]) were inadvertently used to identify the paragraphs that were intended to be amended ([0060.1], [00102], and [00103]) in the Amendment dated February 22, 2007. Applicants have assumed that the Patent Office noted the incorrect paragraph numbers and amended paragraphs [0060.1] instead of [0062.5], [00102] instead of [00104], and [00103] instead of [00105] as set forth in the Amendment dated February 22, 2007. If this is not how the Patent Office treated those amendments, please notify the undersigned attorney to determine what corrective action should be taken by Applicants before prosecution of the application is closed.

Furthermore, please amend the specification as follows:

Please amend paragraph [0002] as follows:

[0002] State of the Art: Containers, such as cups for holding liquids or other materials, have been prevalently used for many years. Particularly, disposable cups and containers are used throughout the food industry, ~~home-~~ homes, offices, work sites, the transportation industry, and in many other circumstances and environments. Disposable cups and containers are generally made of foam, paper, or plastic.

Please amend paragraph [0004] as follows:

[0004] Cup or container instability may be of considerable concern in many environments, for instance, such as on trains, airplanes, or motor vehicles, where bumps may cause ~~frustoconically-shaped-~~ frustoconically shaped cups to tip and the contents to spill out. Instability may be of greater concern when serving hot liquids, and particularly, when very hot liquids are disposed within ~~frustoconically-shaped-~~ frustoconically shaped disposable cups.

Please amend paragraph [0024] as follows:

[0024] FIG. 1D shows an enlarged partial side cross-sectional view of the lid shown in FIGS. ~~1A and 1B;~~ 1B and 1C;

Please amend paragraph [0054] as follows:

[0054] FIG. 8C shows a side perspective view ~~an~~ of an assembly of two containers as shown in FIG. 8A, two lids as shown in FIG. 8B, and two sleeve structures of the present invention;

Please amend paragraph [0055] as follows:

[0055] FIG. 8D shows an enlarged partial side cross-sectional view of the assembly ~~shown in FIG. 8C;~~

Please amend paragraph [0057] as follows:

[0057] FIG. 9B shows an enlarged partial cross-sectional view of an exemplary assembly of two containers, a lid, and two sleeve structures, as shown in ~~FIG. 9B;~~ FIG. 9A;

Please amend paragraph [0059] as follows:

[0059] FIG. 10B shows an enlarged partial cross-sectional view of an exemplary assembly of two sleeve structures, a lid, and two containers as shown in ~~FIG. 10B; and FIG. 10A;~~

Please amend paragraph [0060] as follows:

[0060] FIG. 11 shows a perspective view of an exemplary holding structure for an assembly of a container and sleeve structure of the present ~~invention;~~ invention; and

Please add paragraph [0060.1] after paragraph [0060] as follows:

[0060.1] FIG. 12 shows a perspective view of another embodiment of a sleeve structure of the present invention.

Please amend paragraph [0061] as follows:

[0061] It should be recognized that the present invention is not limited to cups or ~~cup-~~ like cup-like configurations. Rather, the present invention concerns containers, particularly

containers with lids as well as sleeve structures disposed thereabout. Thus, while the embodiments, as illustrated, may be characterized as “cups,” with respect to the illustrated geometries, any of such embodiments may apply to and be practiced in relation to containers, the main difference between containers and cups being the relative size and the shape of the interior thereof. Explaining further, in addition, while the present invention may be characterized as including annular walls, which may generally comprise cups and containers, it should be realized that containers may be configured in generally rectangular, generally square or cube-shaped, or generally circular or cylindrical configurations and in sizes and aspect ratios not normally utilized for beverage cups. Therefore, a “side wall” of a container or sleeve structure as used herein and described below may form a periphery that is rectangular, elliptical, circular, frustoconical, or as otherwise known in the art. Therefore, all such geometries, as known in the art, are included in the present invention, without limitation.

Please amend paragraph [0064] as follows:

[0064] Insulated container 10 of the present invention may be formed by way of vacuum forming or thermoforming. For instance, thermoforming may describe the process wherein a flat sheet of material, usually plastic, is heated and formed by molding in the presence of a vacuum, pressure, or both, to conform to and assume at least a portion of, the shape of one or more mold components. Alternatively, matched mold thermoforming or other thermoforming may be used to fabricate insulated container 10. Plastics that may be particularly suited for use in thermoforming processes include: acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene copolymer (ABS), ~~high-~~high-impact high-impact polystyrene (HIPS), high density polyethylene (HDPE), high molecular weight polyethylene (HMWPE), polypropylene (PP), polyvinyl chloride (PVC), polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA), and polyethylene terephthalate modified with CHDM (PETG). In another alternative, injection molding may be used to form insulated container 10. Accordingly, insulated container 10 may be formed of any of the above-mentioned plastics or others, according to thermoforming processes, injection molding processes, or as otherwise known in the art.

Please amend paragraph [0069] as follows:

[0069] More specifically, stabilizing feature 42 may be configured as an upwardly oriented arcuate recess, groove, or depression extending circumferentially about the outer radial periphery of the lid 32. Such a configuration may allow for the stabilizing feature 42 to engage the lower rolled rim 22 of upper insulated container 10 to stabilize or hold the upper insulated container 10 and the lower insulated container 10 in a stacked relationship or fashion. Therefore, advantageously, providing a first insulated container 10 with a lid 32 as described above may allow for a second insulated container 10 to be disposed longitudinally thereabove with relative stability, as depicted in FIG. 1G.

Please amend paragraph [0070] as follows:

[0070] Also, while not shown in FIG. 1H, for clarity, lid 32 may include a plurality of radial protuberances 45 (~~FIGS. 1C and 1D~~), (FIG. 1B) disposed about the circumference of stabilizing feature 42 and associated with vertically oriented depressions 43 (FIG. 1D) may extend from the inner surface of stabilizing feature 42 and may be sized and configured to compress, position, or both compress and position a rolled rim of a sleeve wall disposed therein. Further, a plurality of vertically oriented depressions 41 (FIG. 1D) may be formed in the radial outer wall of stabilizing feature 42, disposed circumferentially thereabout and may be configured to allow air to communicate with the stabilizing feature 42, which may facilitate disposal of a rolled rim therein as well as removal of a rolled rim therefrom. In addition, vertically oriented depressions 41 may be configured to retain or position a rolled rim within stabilizing feature 42.

Please amend paragraph [0071] as follows:

[0071] However, another desirable feature for containers, especially disposable containers, may be the ability to stack one within another. More specifically, the ability to stack containers or containers in high density, that is, nesting or stacking as many containers in as diminutive a volume as possible, may be a desirable attribute for ease in shipping, handling, and storing such containers. As may be seen in reference to FIG. 1I, the overlap distance d between a

first insulated container 10 and a second, identical, insulated container 10, may not provide as much stacking density as may be desired, particularly for disposable containers.

Please amend paragraph [0099] as follows:

[0099] Turning to FIG. 8D, an enlarged partial cross-sectional view of the assembly 451 shown in FIG. 8C is shown, depicting the position and engagement of containers 410, ~~sleeve-structures 452- structures 450,~~ and lid 440. Explaining further, lid 440 may be positioned onto lower container 410, wherein downwardly oriented arcuate recess 442 substantially conformably engages at least a portion of rolled rim 418. Further, radial protrusion 445 may be sized and configured to inhibit the lid 440 and container 410 moving in longitudinally opposite directions. A portion of lower ~~sleeve-structure 452- structure 450~~ is shown as extending longitudinally upward, substantially parallel to side wall 424 of lower container 410. A portion of upper ~~sleeve-structure 452- structure 450~~ associated with upper container 410 is shown extending longitudinally downward, forming rolled rim 460, which is positioned in engagement with upwardly oriented arcuate recess 444. As may also be seen with reference to FIG. 8D, gap “g” between the lower extent of the stub portion 416 of upper container 410 and lid 440 may be advantageous in allowing the tolerances of the container 410, lid 440, or both of the tolerances of the lid 440 and container 410 to vary more than if the container 410 were to engage the lid 440. However, if suitable accuracy exists, the lower extent of container 410 may be configured to contact the lid 440, without limitation.

Please amend paragraph [00102] as follows:

[00102] As a further facet of the present invention, a container of the present invention may be configured with a stabilizing feature. As shown in FIG. 10A, container 550, which may be configured according to container 110 described hereinabove, includes radially outwardly tapered portion 570, rolled rim 568, and three stabilizing features 560 disposed circumferentially along rolled rim 568. FIG. 10B shows an enlarge partial side cross-sectional view of an assembly of two containers 550 arranged in a stacked relationship, associated sleeve structures 590, and lid 580, where the cross-sectional view is taken through one of stabilizing

features 560. As may be seen, stabilizing feature 560 may include arcuate wall 562, and inwardly oriented radial protrusion 563, which may be sized and configured, upon being assembled to lower container 550 and in combination with lid 580 disposed onto lower container-~~520~~, 550, to engage at least a portion of rolled rim 592 of upper sleeve structure 590. Of course, lid 580 may include circumferential gaps or recesses to accommodate stabilizing features 560. However, arcuate lip 582 as well as rolled rim 568 of lower container 550 are both depicted in FIG. 10B, for completeness.

Please amend paragraph [00103] as follows:

[00103] Generally, any of the stabilizing features described herein may be fabricated separately from a lid, container, or sleeve structure of the present invention and may be configured to be selectively assembled, removed, or both assembled to and removed from a respective lid, container, or sleeve structure, without limitation. Such a configuration may allow for greater flexibility in design and use of lids, containers, sleeve structures and assemblies thereof. For example, as shown in FIG. 12, a sleeve 630 may have circumferentially separated stabilizing features 640, as shown with respect to a container in FIG. 10A. The stabilizing features 640 may each be upwardly oriented arcuate recesses sized and configured to engage at least a portion of a rolled rim of another sleeve structure, such as the lid 440 shown in FIG. 8B.